News and Notes from the
Fellowship Offices

Keeping in Touch

MAY 1984

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 304, Los Angeles, CA 90020-9990 (213) 464-5100

MARCH

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by April 15

(In Amount Given)

MCC DALLAS, DALLAS, TX	$ 1,534.37
MCC SAN DIEGO, SAN DIEGO, CA	1,412.21
MCC OF RESURRECTION, HSTN, TX	1,312.93
CHRIST CHAPEL MCC, SANTA ANA, CA	962.31
MCC IN THE VALLEY, NO. HOLYWD, CA	830.44
MCC LONG BEACH, LONG BEACH,CA	773.56
MCC OF GREATER ST. LOUIS, ST. LUS, MO	689.04
MCC SAN FRANCISCO, SF,CA	654.46
AGAPE MCC FT. WORTH, FT. WORTH, TX	651.36
MCC LOS ANGELES, LA, CA	629.66
CHURCH OF HOLY SPIRIT MCC, FT. LDLE, FL	620.11
MCC SEATTLE, SEATTLE, WA	597.82
MCC PORTLAND, PORTLAND, OR	534.50
GOLDEN GATE MCC, SF, CA	511.49
MCC SAN ANTONIO, SAN ANTONIO, TX	463.46
MCC OF GREATER KC, KANSAS CITY, MO	457.77
MCC NEW YORK, NY, NY	456.35
MCC CINCINNATI, CINCINNATI, OH	344.86
MCC ALBUQUERQUE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM	340.23
ST. JOHN'S MCC, RALEIGH, NC	309.96

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MARCH

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by April 15

(per capita)

CHRIST CHAPEL MCC, SANTA ANA, CA	$ 32.51
CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION MCC, NO,LA	26.30
MCC SAN DIEGO, SAN DIEGO, CA	23.62
FAITH ETERNAL MCC, SPRINGFLD, IL	22.41
MCC OF ACADIANA, LAFAYETTE, LA	21.35
DE COLORES MCC, HIGHLAND PK, CA	20.61
MCC OF GREATER ST LOUIS, ST LOUIS, MO	20.51
MCC OF SAN GABRIEL VLY, LA PUENTA, CA	19.99
AGAPE MCC OF FT. WORTH, FT. WORTH, TX	18.77
NEW LIFE MCC, OAKLAND, CA	16.40
CHURCH OF NEW HOPE MCC, WATERLOO, LA	15.81
MCC OF PORTLAND, PORTLAND, OR	15.41
MCC LONG BEACH, LONG BEACH, CA	15.17
CHRIST THE LIBERATOR MCC, PRCTN, NJ	14.23
MCC ANCHORAGE, ANCHORAGE, AK	14.21
MCC AMARILLO, AMARILLO, TX	14.18
CALVARY MCC, REDWOOD CITY, CA	13.18
MCC SAN ANTONIO, SAN ANTONIO, TX	13.09
CHURCH OF HOLY SPIRIT MCC, FT. LDLE, FL	12.71
MCC CHARLOTTE, CHARLOTTE, NC	12.17

*** PRAISES ***

MODESTO, CA: Patricia Litka, Worship Coordinator, was recently featured in a local T.V. show where she answered Jerry Falwell (eloquently, we might add!)

EUGENE, OREGON - MCC of the Willamette Valley gives praises that MCC in Nigeria did receive the special Christmas love offering they sent.

St. JOHN'S MCC in Raleigh, N.C. has an exciting prison ministry to the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women that began in September.

MCC SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA is starting a feasibility in the suburbs of Sydney. They are also delighted to report that three openly Gay persons have been elected to the Sydney City Council!

REV. BOB JONES is graduating from Pacific School of Religion on May 20th - Congratulations, Bob!

THE NEXT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING of the N.C.C. will be May 15-18, 1984. MCC will be present for the meeting.

THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICES have received news of a Gay support group, and an international Feminist Forum in Japan who had never heard of M.C.C. and are interested.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE BREAKTHROUGH IN AIDS RESEARCH!

Ed Helms is heading up a program in Baltimore called Fellowship of Christians United in Service (FOCUS) P.O. Box 4561, Baltimore MD. 21212; 301-435-3985. One of their main outreach is to AIDS patients. Ed spoke at our clergy conference and is affiliated with our Church in Baltimore. Assistance to congregations can be provided.

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Rev. Dee Lamb, of MCC Resurrection, Houston Tx, would like to thank all the many congregations and individuals in the Fellowship for their expressions of love and sympathy. Dee's son, Mark was killed in an accident on April 12. Melissa (Dee's daughter, also a member of MCCR), and Mark's brother, wife and daughter wish to express their thanks. Rev. Lamb preached the funeral service, attended by her family, members of MCCR and Mark's friends.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev. June Norris is pleased to announce with M.C.C. Los Angeles, that the "Mother Church" decided to rededicate its chapel last September, naming it the Van Hecke-Rudolph Memorial Chapel, in memory of her mother, Bessie Rudolph known to everyone as "Grandma Rudolph" and the Rev. "Papa" Paul Van Hecke. Grandma Rudolph died in 1983 after nearly 100 years of a full life as a joy-giver. We want to especially remember her and give thanks for her life on Mothers Day 1984.

THE ORIENTATION TO MCC PASTORING starts June 11th. We ask you to keep this summer's program in your prayers. We are very excited by the response to this program and we know with your prayers it will be a great experience for all involved!

We also want to thank you for your cooperation in celebrating Samaritan Sunday. We are very excited by their early response and offer praises to God for your ministry to Samaritan!

MEXICO CITY

Our Church in Mexico City has been asked to vacate their meeting place, an Episcopal church in the heart of Mexico City.

Members of the Church report that a Mexican Senator (an evangelical) was walking through the neighborhood that ICM meets in and heard the joyous singing. He entered the Church and at testimony time learned that this was a church that was open to Gay and Lesbian Christians. He left, enraged, and as a result, the Anglican Bishop of Mexico City, the Rt. Rev. Jose Sanchedo, asked our church to leave.

Our 45 member church runs 250 in attendance on Sunday. They are presently trying to buy property so the church can be registered with the government. Keep them in your prayers.

The Board of Elders has written to the Bishop explaining our deep disappointment in his action.

NEWS FROM NIGERIA after a long lapse, we have heard from Rev. Maduka who writes from Nigeria: "I wish to thank each and every one of you for all your efforts to see the gospel being preached in this part of West Africa through your moral, material and financial assistance... a feasibility study is underway to establish a study group in the North Eastern states. Already a brother is there now... As you all know, I work in the construction field in order to feed (my family), meet my domestic needs and to support the church too... Since the change in Government in Nigeria in Jan. 84, the untold hardship it has brought is not to be mentioned. Most of the essential commodities need to be imported... Children and pregnant women die in great numbers due to lack of care in the hospitals ...Right now we are really suffering, but by the grace of god all will be better, for there is great hope for those who trust in the Lord." Rev. Maduka also mentions the desperate need for transportation, for health reasons and to do the work of M.C.C. Please keep Rev. Maduka and our Nigerian Churches in your prayers. Donations or expressions of love, support and concern may be sent, C/O Rev. Elder Jean White in London, who forwards the Fellowship Nigeria allotment.

OLD TIME GOSPEL HOUR - UPDATE ON EQUAL TIME

Thanks to the MCC groups around the country, Rev. Perry was able to contact by letter 84 television station and 3 cable networks that broadcast the Falwell program. In addition two California stations have already granted rebuttle time.

In response to advice from our attorney, and in consultation with the FCC and Access Media Project in Washington, D.C., the Fellowship decided to request equal time from the individual broadcasters. This request is based on FCC FAIRNESS Doctrine Rule 73.123 Personal Attacks. Which states, in part, "...when, during the presentation of views on controversial issue of public importance, an attack is made upon the honesty, character, integrity or like personal qualities of an identified person or group, the licensee shall, within a reasonable time ...offer of a reasonable opportunity to respond over the licensee's facilities." We will keep you posted on replies and procedures for exercising our response privilege.

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FROM BOARD OF PENSIONS The pension assessments for the First Quarter were due on April 10th. As of this writing over half of the Churches, Missions and Study Groups have responded. This is a very good response in comparison to the timeliness of tithes and excellent in regard to its being the first time for this payment. Letters have been sent to those MCC groups whose assessment had not been received by the 20th.

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By General Conference resolution a church's obligation to pay this assessment has the same sanctions as apply to the Fellowship and District assessments. This means that a congregation could lose their Lay Delegate votes at District and General Conference if the pension assessment is in arrears. To date, the smallest pension check was for $1.80 and the largest was for $517.20. Total receipts so far are $5,371.20 and expenses have yet to be paid.